

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A golf club head having a head volume in a range of from 355 to 450 cc and comprising a hollow body comprising a face portion and sole portion each made of a metal material, the hollow body having a structure producing a ball-hitting sound whose maximum sound pressure level occurs around 6.3 kHz,

said structure including:

said sole portion comprising a front part and a back part next to the front part, wherein the front part is thicker than the back part and has a substantially constant thickness of from 1.2 to 1.8 mm, and the decrease in the thickness of the sole portion from that of the front part to that of the back part concentrates near the rear edge of the front part; and

the surface area of the sole portion being in a range of from 4000 to 5500 mm².

2. (currently amended) A golf club head according to claim 1, wherein

~~said sole portion comprises a thicker front part and a back part next to the front part, the thickness of the front part~~

~~is in a range of from 1.2 to 1.8 mm, the thickness of the back part is in a range of from 0.7 to 1.8 mm, and the ratio of the average thickness of the back part to the average thickness of the front part is in a range of less than 1.~~

3. (new) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the thickness of the front part is from 1.2 to 1.8 mm and the thickness of the back part is from 0.9 to 1.6 mm.

4. (new) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the thickness of the front part is from 1.4 to 1.6 mm and the thickness of the back part is at least 0.9 mm and the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.5 but less than 1.

5. (new) The golf club head according to claim 4, in which the ratio of the thickness of the back part to the thickness of the front part is greater than 0.8 but less than 1.

6. (new) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the front part extends from the toe-side edge to the heel-side edge of the sole portion.

7. (new) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the front portion has a rear edge (K) that is substantially straight.

8. (new) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the front portion has a rear edge (K) that is curved convexly toward the club face.

9. (new) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which front portion has a rear edge (K) that is curved concavely toward the club face.

10. (new) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the front portion has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

10. (new) The golf club head according to claim 1, in which the front portion has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

11. (new) The golf club head according to claim 2, in which the front portion has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the

middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

12. (new) The golf club head according to claim 3, in which the front portion has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

13. (new) The golf club head according to claim 4, in which the front portion has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

14. (new) The golf club head according to claim 5, in which the front portion has a rear edge (K) that is positioned in the middle of the length (LS) of the sole portion in the front-to-back direction.

15. (new) The golf club head according to claim 9, in which the edge (K) is curved in parallel with the club face.